

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

/078 W

-----140107Z 088843 /64

R 121500Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 2131

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, SZ

SUBJ: ILO: 63RD INTL LABOR CONFERENCE: DEMARCHE TO SWISS FEDERAL
COUNCILLOR (MIN OF COMMERCE, LABOR & AGRIC) BRUGGER

REF: BERN 2108

1. ON MAY 11, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM, I CALLED ON
SWISS FEDERAL COUNCILLOR ERNST BRUGGER, WHOSE DEPT
OF PUBLIC ECONOMY INCLUDES LABOR MATTERS. ALSO
PRESENT WERE DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE BONNY OF THE
FEDERAL LABOR OFFICE, AND RENE GREVER, ADVISOR FOR
INTL LABOR MATTERS.

2. AFTER I PRESENTED SAME POINTS I MADE ON MAY 10
TO FONMIN GRABER (REFTEL), BRUGGER SAID SWISS
UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND WERE IN BASIC SYMPATHY
WITH IT. THEY WOULD REGARD IT AS A TRAGEDY IF THE
US LEFT THE ILO. HE THEN ASKED BONNY TO ADDRESS
SPECIFIC POINTS I RAISED.

3. BONNY SAID SWISS VALUED THEIR CLOSE
COLLABORATION WITH US IN ILO MATTERS AND REFERRED
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WARMLY TO BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS.
SWISS WANTED US TO REMAIN IN ILO, NOT MERELY BECAUSE
OF OUR SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT, BUT BECAUSE
WITHOUT US AND OTHER LEADING INDUSTRIAL NATIONS,
ILO WOULD BE "A JOKE". THEY FULLY SHARED OUR CON-
CERN ABOUT INCREASING POLITICIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION.

4. BONNY SAID SWISS WILL WORK AT JUNE CONFERENCE FOR RETURN TO ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF ILO AND TO CLEAR BOOKS ON THE 1974 ISRAELI RESOLUTION. THEY WILL SUPPORT US IN SEEKING TO AMEND RESOLUTION 17, AND AGREE THAT FURTHER SESSIONS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURAL REFORM SHOULD BE DEFERRED.

5. REFERRING TO THE TRIPOLI MEETING, BONNY NOTED THAT THE US DELEGATION HAD SUSTAINED IMPRESSION THAT SOME AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES, WHEN APPROACHED INDIVIDUALLY, WERE MODERATE ON POINTS AT ISSUE. SWISS FELT, HOWEVER, THAT WHEN POINTS COME TO OPEN VOTE, THOSE AFRICANS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO TAKE SAME POSITION IN PUBLIC. HE OBSERVED THAT ONLY THE GOVERNING BODY COULD VOTE IN SECRET.

6. IN CONCLUSION, BRUGGER SAID AGAIN THAT HIS GOVT FULLY UNDERSTANDS OUR VIEWS, SYMPATHIZES WITH THEM, AND WOULD BE DISTRESSED IF WE FELT OBLIGED TO LEAVE THE ILO. THE SWISS DELEGATION AT GENEVA WILL BE INSTRUCTED ACCORDINGLY, ALTHOUGH AS HOST DELEGATION IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO BE TOO OVERLY ACTIVE.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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